

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (ORIGINAL) A pressure pad comprising at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells, the cells extending linearly transversely along the pad and held in place on a pad base by retaining means, characterized in that the retaining means hold the cells in tension across the pad.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the retaining means are releasable.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the retaining means secure the opposite ends of each cell at a predetermined distance from the centre linear axis of the cell.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 3 characterised in that the retaining means also secures the central region of the cells along the centre linear axis of the cell.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 4 characterised in that the retaining means comprise loop straps fixed to the pad base retaining the central region of each cell and **hook type** fasteners releasably retaining each end of the cell.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 2 characterised in that the retaining means secure the opposite ends of each cell at a predetermined distance from the centre linear axis of the cell.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad as claimed in claim 6 characterised in that the retaining means also secures the central region of the cells along the centre linear axis of the cell.

8. **(CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An alternating pad~~ A pressure pad** as claimed in claim 7 characterised in that the retaining means comprise loop straps fixed to the pad base retaining the central region of each cell and ~~hook type~~ fasteners releasably retaining each end of the cell.
9. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 1 wherein the cells, as they extend transversely along the pad, are held in a bent state by the retaining means.
10. **(NEW)** A pressure pad including:
- a. a pad base;
  - b. at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells atop the pad base, the cells having lengths extending across the pad base, wherein:
    - (1) cells are tensioned along their lengths both when inflated and deflated, the cells having a tensioned shape when tensioned; and
    - (2) when tension is released, the cells assume an untensioned shape different from the tensioned shape.
11. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein the cells are tensioned by fasteners extending from cells at the ends of their lengths.
12. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
- a. each cell has a central portion spaced from the ends of its length, and
  - b. the central portion has a central axis offset from a linear axis extending between the ends.
13. **(NEW)** The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
- a. each cell has a central portion spaced from the ends of its length;
  - b. the central portion is restrained to the pad base; and
  - c. the central portion is offset from an axis extending between the fasteners.

14. (NEW) The pressure pad of claim 13 wherein the central portion is restrained to the pad base by a loop extending from the pad base about the central portion.
15. (NEW) The pressure pad of claim 10 wherein:
- a. the cells have central axes extending between their opposing ends,
  - b. when the cells are tensioned, the central axes are bent into nonlinear shapes.
16. (NEW) A pressure pad including:
- a. a pad base;
  - b. at least two sets of alternately inflatable cells atop the pad base, the cells having lengths extending between opposing cell ends across the pad base;
  - c. loops extending about the cells and restraining the cells to the pad base, the loops being spaced from the cell ends; and
  - d. fasteners at the cell ends, the fasteners being affixed to structure off of the pressure pad, whereby the cells and the pad base are held to the structure;
- wherein the loops and the fasteners urge the cells into nonlinear shapes between the loops and the fasteners.
17. (NEW) The pressure pad of claim 16 wherein the cells are tensioned along their lengths between the loops and the fasteners.
18. (NEW) The pressure pad of claim 17 wherein the loops extending about one of the cells have central axes which are offset from a linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell.
19. (NEW) The pressure pad of claim 16 wherein the loops extending about one of the cells have central axes which are offset from a linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell, the offset extending in a direction oriented at least substantially perpendicularly to the linear axis extending between the fasteners of the cell.

20. (NEW) The pressure pad of claim 19 wherein the cells are tensioned along their lengths.

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